



Template Letter to Your State Legislator

A letter to your legislative representative is a valuable tool that provides you with a way to weigh in with lawmakers and other government officials and share your concerns. The state-focused template below should be customized so that you can personalize your message, impact legislation and highlight your priorities. Remember to be clear and brief, and tell your state legislator what you want them to do. Also include your contact information so that your legislator can contact you. You can also adapt the letter below to address state officials other than legislators, such as regulatory boards, division directors and other government officials.

Dear *[Insert name of Senator or Representative]*,

As a resident of *[insert your state]*, I urge you to support my access to quality and affordable health care, as well as to a full range of health care professionals.

I strongly believe that patients are best served when they have access to a team of health care professionals who work together to ensure overall health and wellness, and that patients should choose the type of provider that best suits their individual needs. Since there are more than three million licensed health care professionals in the U.S. who are not doctors of medicine (MDs) or osteopathy (DOs), it's important to me that I retain full access to these health care professionals.

[In this section, tell your legislator about your personal story, including how your health has been positively impacted by a health care professional who is not a MD or DO. Include the type of health care professional you used and the services that were provided to highlight the value in receiving the right care at the right time. Also include information on whether these health care services were covered by insurance and whether you could afford them if there was not adequate coverage.]

There is currently a divisive movement to restrict the valuable services provided by some health care professionals, which will limit patient access to safe, high quality and cost effective health care. The Scope of Practice Partnership (SOPP), a coalition of medical and osteopathic physician organizations established by the American Medical Association (AMA) and other medical groups, aims to limit other health care professionals' scopes of practice – the range of health care-related activities and services that a health care professional is educated, licensed and/or certified to provide. [OPTIONAL TEXT if appropriate: I encourage you to reject *[insert name and number of bill in your state that threatens the scope of practice of health care professionals other than MDs and DOs]* because it would restrict my access to the provider of my choice.]

Providers other than MDs or DOs are indispensable caregivers to millions of Americans, including me. My access to the best health care professional for my needs should be based on concerns about safety, efficacy and positive outcomes, not "turf wars".

Please contact me to let me know your position on protecting the role that health care professionals other than MDs or DOs have in caring for patients like me. I can be reached at *[insert phone number]* or via email at *[insert email address]*. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,